

Jude 1-11 – 12 October 2025

“Earnestly Contend For The Faith: Pt 1 of 2”

Introduction

*Short letters aren't throwaways, but packed w/ power

*We are the representations of God on earth; we are to set a difference between our lifestyle & that of the unbelievers

*Turn to Eph 5:8-16 & Turn to I Thes 5:2-8

*Let's jump into vss 1-3 to let Jude give us his intro

Read Vs 1

1. This Jude (Judas) is the brother of James the leader of the early Jerusalem Church (Acts 15)
 - a. They're half-brothers of Jesus (Matt 13:55)
2. Judas takes the title doulos of Jesus his brother
 - a. This is powerful b/c it's what he chose; not what nature forced on him
3. He writes describing all believers accurately
 - a. Called – God initiated this work in us
 - b. Beloved – Brought into what is good

- i. Some translations say ‘sanctified’ (or being crafted into what is good)
- c. Kept – Preserved in an unbreakable bond
- 4. These 3 verbs make a beautiful picture
 - a. God opens His arms to us calling us in, embraces us in His arms and never lets go

Read Vs 2

- 1. Jude isn’t content to just wish these virtues were added to us, but that they would be multiplied to us

Read Vs 3

- 1. H.S. superseded what Jude intended to write
 - a. Always be flexible to change our words or actions when the Lord speaks to us afresh
- 2. H.S. adjusted Jude to say ‘earnestly contend for the faith’ or fight to hold their belief in truth
 - a. Read I Tim 6:12 – When we were born, we entered the boxing ring
 - b. Do we want to be on the offense or just get smacked around by the blows of this world?

- c. We're told 'weapons of our warfare aren't earthly but they're spiritual able to pull down mental & spiritual strongholds' (II Cor 10:3-5)
- d. We put on these weapons like armor (Eph 6)
- 3. Now what we're to contend for is this belief system that was given once and never needs fixed or added to
 - a. We don't need another Testament, another Gospel, or another Savior
 - b. We're speaking of Mormons & every other group that changes the truth of this book (Read Gal 1:8)
- 4. If you've changed to something other than this Bible, you've been given a lie
 - a. Satan loves to come in looking shiny & good and then sells you a pallet of lies

In these two sessions, we'll see 6 ways that we should be earnestly contending for the true faith

We'll look at 2 of these 6 ways today

#1 – We don't waste our resources on ourselves as the false converts do (Vs 4-7)

Read Vs 4

1. Salvation by God's grace is to be honored
 - a. Read Gal 5:13-14 - Our freedom in Christ isn't to be used for selfishness but for godliness
 - b. Paul said, 'though I'm free from all men, yet I have made myself servant to all, that I might gain the more' (I Cor 9:19)
2. We need do nothing but believe in God's grace at the cross for salvation
 - a. Now will we use this experience to self or the advancement of making Jesus known?
 - b. Beware of those that creep in consuming upon self

Read Vs 5-7

1. These are all 3 examples of those that had a position of good or salvation & choose to leave it

- a. Vs 5, Moses' Israel left off believing God & were destroyed in the wilderness
 - b. Vs 6, Some angels left off believing God (became demons) & are held for destruction in tarturos (II Pet 2)
 - c. Vs 7, People of Sodom left off believing God's method of human sexuality & became an earthly picture of receiving destruction in hell fire
- 2. God knows how to mark the unbelievers for destruction w/o missing a one (Read II Pet 2:9)
 - 3. In all these examples there is a pride of not being content with what God has provided
 - a. It's the same for these men; they're taking their salvation freedom & gifts & using them for self

#2 – We don't war against authorities & powers (Vs 8-11)

Read Vs 8-9

1. These men live in lies of illusions, like dreams
2. They misunderstand authority in all realms
 - a. They misuse the flesh – trying to use it instead of killing it
 - b. They misuse authority or dominions of this world
 - c. They rail against or try taking authority over glorious ones or dignities which are demonic forces
 - i. Even Michael can't take authority over Satan; they're equals, only God can
 - d. What is our position toward demonic forces?
 - i. It's not to condemn or bind them, that's God's job
 - ii. It's to withstand their lies by God's Word
 1. Jesus at His temptation in Luke 4
 2. Read Eph 6:12-13

3. Don't take this false position of power that these ungodly people take – but take the image of Christ and that of humility (see Phil 2)

Read Vs 10

1. How can we know anything of the eternal realm whether in heaven or hell unless the Lord reveals it
 - a. We too often speak proudly of matters we don't know of (Read Job 38:2 – darks counsel by words without knowledge)
 - b. When the Bible is silent, be silent; but when the Bible speaks give it boldly

Read Vs 11a

1. Cain couldn't live under the authority of what God wanted of him spiritually (anger)
2. Read Heb 11:4 - Abel acted by faith, Cain couldn't
3. Thought to gain independence, but gained bondage

Read Vs 11b

1. Balaam couldn't live w/ prosperity only by godly means but wanted it at any cost (greed)
2. Thought to give cursing, but gave blessing

Read Vs 11c

1. Korah couldn't live under God's appointed authority (Moses) in his own good position (pride)
2. They thought to gain more power & position, but gained death

Conclusion

Are you in the fight? We're to fight the good fight of faith as a good soldier of Christ

1. **Let's use our resources on glorifying God and advancing the purposes of God**
2. **Let's be humble and content with our station in life w/o bucking against authorities**
 - a. Jesus humbled Himself to a low station and yet accomplished Great things!